

better than I had feared or hoped. We were met here by a delegation from the chief date village, fine menn, who wanted to take us on to their town at once, but I prefer to rest till tomorrow. The great trade date is the Siady, as they pronounce it, which goes by caravan to "rail end" at Kharga. There are a few trees of Sultany reported but said to be very old and I can as yet learn of no young ones. Will send what fortune later.

What do you think of *rice* on the heaviest red adobe land, too strong in salt and alkali for barley? Some of it is now turning brown; harvest in November. It is said to have been here from Roman times. This looks to me to be the biggest find of the trip. I am arranging for a camel load of the new grain to be sent to the rail end. Expect to start back in four or five days, when I shall hope to have found Sultany offshoots."

China. Peking. Mr. Frank N. Meyer, agricultural explorer, writes September 16: "Last Sunday night (Sept. 14) I returned here to Peking from an extended journey into the mountainous regions, West and N. W. of Peking, where I have been studying up the tree and shrub flora of the Hsiao Wui tai shan, the different varieties of persimmons, some cherry plantations and walnut and chestnut trees. As regards collecting herbarium material in Hsiao Wu tai shan, I have been quite successful, I think, for I have over 80 *sp. of woody plants* in my possession now. In so far as the persimmon question is concerned I have not been very lucky, for we have a very bad persimmon year here around Peking. Sometimes trees haven't a single fruit on them. The Chinese say that the early rains ruined the flowers and no fruit was set. One grower stated there were such things as trees which bore either exceedingly little or even no fruit at all (in other words male trees). He stated however that the Chinese rebudded such trees as soon as they found out such facts. About the equatorial incision being closer to the peduncle or farther away from it, we were told that really no attention was being paid to it by anybody. The big majority of fruits (Tamopans) that I have seen however seem to have the incision closer to the peduncle than in the middle of the fruit. Of the cherries I have taken photos of the trees and collected herbarium material, that is of the sweet cherries; of the real bush-cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*) I have not seen a single good plantation on this trip. One finds it extremely difficult to obtain correct information regarding minor matters in fruits. The one Chinaman knows less than the other. The fruit dealers too